

THE DAILY WHIP

Thursday, February 13, 2003 | Floor News from Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer

HOUSE MEETS AT...	LAST VOTE PREDICTED...
10:00 a.m.: Legislative Business	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
No "One-Minutes" today	

***** ATTENDANCE IS CRITICAL FOR TODAY'S CONSIDERATION OF WELFARE REFORM LEGISLATION. PLEASE NOTIFY THE DEMOCRATIC WHIP'S FLOOR STAFF IF YOU PLAN TO BE ABSENT.**

FLOOR SCHEDULE AND PROCEDURE

H.R. 4 – Personal Responsibility, Work and Family Promotion Act of 2003
(Subject to a Rule)

H.J.Res. 2 – Fiscal Year 2003 Appropriations Conference Report (Subject to a Rule)

BILL SUMMARY AND KEY ISSUES

H.R. 4 – Personal Responsibility, Work and Family Promotion Act of 2003 (Subject to a Rule). This bill reauthorizes the 1996 Welfare Reform Act and continues funding for major federal welfare programs at the current level of \$16.5 billion a year. The Rules Committee has recommended a modified closed rule that provides 2 hours of debate; waives all points of order against consideration of the bill; and provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions. The Rule makes in order **two amendments in the nature of a substitute** in the following order.

- **Kucinich/Lee/McGovern/Lantos - Amendment in the nature of a substitute (40 minutes).** This substitute maintains all current law work requirements, including the provision that TANF recipients work 30 hours per week and that 50% of the caseload engage in work activities. The Kucinich/Lee/McGovern/Lantos substitute provides \$20 billion for child care over five years. The substitute makes the reduction of poverty a purpose of TANF and provides states with a poverty reduction bonus. The bill also requires all states to address barriers to work, including domestic violence, by providing for trained caseworkers who would screen recipients.
- **Cardin/Kind/Woolsey – Amendment in the nature of a substitute (40 minutes).** The Cardin/Kind/Woolsey substitute expands **State flexibility** to provide training and education to welfare recipients (such activities would count for up to 24 months against a State's participation requirement). The bill also increases the core work activities from 20 to 24 hours a week, while maintaining the current-law requirement on total

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participation hours (30 per week). **The Cardin/Kind/Woolsey substitute funds child care needs** by increasing mandatory funding for childcare by \$11 billion over the next five years.

- **The Republican bill limits states' flexibility** by eliminating "vocational educational training" from the current-law list of work related activities that count toward a State's participation rate (for the first 24 hours a week). It also increases the number of required work participation hours from 30 hours to 40 hours per week for mothers with older children and from 20 hours to 40 hours per week for mothers with children under the age of six. **Republicans promote unfunded mandates**, considering that the CBO estimates implementing the work requirements in the Republican bill will cost the States \$8 to \$11 billion and Republicans only include \$1 billion in new mandatory child care funding.

Democrats are urged to VOTE YES on the Cardin/Kind/Woolsey Substitute and to VOTE NO on final passage of the Republican bill.

H.J.Res. 2 – Fiscal Year 2003 Appropriations Conference Report (Subject to a Rule). This bill provides approximately \$397.4 billion. The bill includes an across-the-board reduction of 0.6 percent to 0.7 percent, most of which would help fund an education increase. Several programs are exempt from the across-the-board cut, including the space shuttle, Head Start, veterans' medical care and the Women, Infants and Children special supplemental nutrition program (WIC). The Rules Committee has recommended a closed rule that provides for 1 hour of debate; waives all points of order against consideration of the joint resolution; provides that the conference report shall be considered as read; and provides one motion to recommit.

DAILY QUOTE...

"The bottom line for us is that we are no better off than we were on Sept. 11, that we're not ready for a terrorist strike."

- New Haven, CT, Mayor John DeStefano, Jr., in a *New York Times*' story today on anti-terror funding stalling in the GOP Congress

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